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## NOTES OF THE SOCIETY

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### FIRST MEETING OF THE MIDDLE WEST BRANCH OF THE ORIENTAL SOCIETY

At its annual meeting in 1916, the Society appointed a committee of its members, Professors Breasted (chairman), Clay, Olmstead, Morgenstern, to consider the organization of a Western Branch of the Society. A meeting was decided upon and Western members accordingly came together on January 27th at the Haskell Oriental Museum of the University of Chicago.

The following were present at one or more of the sessions, those newly pledging themselves to membership in the Society being indicated by the asterisk: \*Allen, Miss Beers, \*Block, \*Brauchitsch, Breasted, \*Miss Breyfogle, \*Bull, \*Buttenwieser, \*Carrier, Carus, Clark, \*Cohen, Dorf, \*Edgerton, Eiselen, Fuller, \*Henry, \*Gaenssle, \*Hirsch, \*Hornbeck, \*Kelly, Laufer, \*Levi, Levy, Luckenbill, \*Lybyer, \*Markowitz, \*Meek, Mercer, Morgenstern, Ohan, Olmstead, Price, \*Pyatt, \*Richardson, Robinson, \*Sellers, \*Sharman, Smith, Sprengling, \*Stolz, \*Wearing, \*Willett, Wolfenson, \*Wrench. In addition, there was a considerable attendance of advanced students from the various Chicago institutions of learning, with a total of over seventy-five.

The first session was held in the Haskell Assembly Room, beginning at 10 a. m., Professor Breasted, Chairman of the Organization Committee, in the chair. Dean James Rowland Angell of Chicago University warmly welcomed the members. Professor Breasted stated the object of the meeting and read a telegram conveying good wishes, from Professors Jastrow, Kent, Edgerton, and Montgomery, of Philadelphia, and a letter of the same tenor from Professor Clay of New Haven. Temporary organization was secured by the election of Professor Breasted as temporary chairman and of Professor Olmstead as secretary. Papers were then read as follows:—

Professor Albert H. LYBYER, of the University of Illinois: The travels of Evliya Effendi.—Discussion by Dr. Laufer and Professor Sprengling.

Professor A. T. OLSTEAD, of the University of Missouri: The Assyrian Government of Dependencies.—Discussion by Professor Mercer.

Professor Moses BUTTENWIESER, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati: Have we any Maccabaean Psalms?

Professor George L. ROBINSON, McCormick Theological Seminary: State of Archaeological Research in Palestine at the Opening of the War (illustrated).

Professor Lybyer took the chair. The matter of signing cards for membership in the new Branch was taken up, and a large number signed. (The total was forty-five, of whom twenty-six were not previously members.)

The reading of papers was resumed, Professor Breasted in the chair.

Professor D. D. LUCKENBILL, University of Chicago: A Newly Found Babylonian Syllabary.

Professor Martin SPRENGLING, of the University of Chicago: The Ship Building Edict in the Elephantine Aramaic Papyri.

There followed an inspection of the Haskell Museum Collections, conducted by the Director, Professor Breasted.

The meeting then adjourned to a luncheon tendered the visiting Orientalists by the University of Chicago at the Quadrangle Club.

The meeting reconvened at three o'clock, Professor Breasted in the chair. Professor Willett moved that it was the sense of the meeting that we proceed to organize a Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society, and the motion was carried. The organization committee, previously appointed, consisting of Professor Morgenstern (chairman), and Professors Breasted, Lybyer, Olmstead, and Wrench, submitted a draft of the Constitution (to be submitted to the Society at its annual meeting). On motion of Professor Eiselen, the report was adopted. On nomination from the floor, the following were elected by unanimous vote cast by the secretary as members of the nominating committee: Professors Wolfenson, Smith, Eiselen, Morgenstern, Mercer.

The society listened to the following communication:—

Dr. Berthold LAUFER, Curator of Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History: Recent Archaeological Discovery in China (illustrated).

Professor Eiselen reported for the committee on nominations, as follows: For President, Professor BREASTED; for Vice President, Dr. LAUFER; for Secretary-Treasurer, Professor OLME-

STEAD; for members of the Executive Committee, Professors MORGESTERN and CLARK. Professor Lybyer took the chair. On motion of Professor Wolfenson, the secretary cast the unanimous ballot of the society for the members thus nominated. The President took the chair. The following papers were read:—

Professor Stanley K. HORNBECK of the University of Wisconsin: The Problem of Republic-Making in China.

Professor J. E. WRENCH of the University of Missouri: The Byzantine Land System.—Discussion by Professor Thompson.

Professor Walter E. CLARK, University of Chicago: Indo-European Names in Cuneiform Documents.—Some Queries.—Discussion by Professors Breasted and Luckenbill.

Professor J. M. Powis SMITH, University of Chicago: The Elephantine Aramaic Papyri and Hebrew Religion.

Professor Julian MORGESTERN, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati: The Origin of the Biblical Massoth Festival.

The meeting then adjourned to reassemble at the Quadrangle Club at seven o'clock. Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch presided as toastmaster, and the following toasts were responded to:—

The Orientalist and the Near East: Professor LYBYER.

The Orientalist and the Far East: Professor HORNBECK.

The Orientalist and Ancient History: Professor OLMLSTEAD.

The Orientalist and Religion: Professor FOSTER.

The meeting was adjourned to meet subject to the call of the Executive Committee.

A. T. OLMLSTEAD, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The one hundred twenty-ninth meeting of the Society will be held in Boston and Cambridge on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of Easter Week, April 10, 11, and 12, 1917. The sessions will be held in the House of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 28 Newbury Street, Boston, except the session of Thursday, which will probably be held in Cambridge. The first session will open on Tuesday at 11 A. M. The directors will meet at 9:15 A. M.

The headquarters will be the Hotel Brunswick, Copley Square. The Harvard Club and the College Club of Boston courteously

offer the facilities of their club-houses to the men and the women of the Society, respectively, during their stay in Boston. The dinner of the Society will be held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Brunswick.

The Corresponding Secretary wishes to hear as soon as possible from all members who expect to be present. Every member who intends to present a paper is especially requested to note the announcement made in the Preliminary Circular with regard to papers to be read at the meeting.

## PERSONALIA

The Rev. HERVEY B. VANDERBOGART, B.D., Professor of Hebrew and Cognate Languages at the Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn., died January 30, 1917. He was a member of this Society since 1911.

JOSEPH HALEVY, a *Directeur* in the École des Hautes Études, Paris, editor of the *Revue des Études Juives*, etc., died in Paris February 2, 1917. He was born in Adrianople in 1827, and was probably the Nestor of Semitic and Jewish scholars.

The Rev. SAMUEL HART, D.D., Dean of the Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn., and Professor of Doctrinal Theology, died February 25, 1917. He was a member of the Society since 1879.

PROF. A. H. SAYCE, who has been spending the winter in California, has sailed to Japan, where he is to deliver some lectures. His address is c/o Thos. Cook & Son, Yokohama.

PROF. ELIHU GRANT, of Smith College, has been appointed Professor of Biblical Literature in Bryn Mawr College.